Course description

In reading samples of literature from the Middle Ages to the present, we will discuss how literature was produced and disseminated at different times, how the English language has changed, and how we use the concept of literary periods. Representations of love and war and of men and women at different points in time will be discussed in different types of literature. We will also focus on how texts from the past – in this case, medieval stories – become part of contemporary culture. A major section of the course will examine literary responses to World War One in poetry and fiction.

Course requirements

Essays: 50% of the total grade
Writing exercises and class instruction will help prepare you to write the following required essays. You will be writing a short poem analysis, an in-class essay, and a slightly longer research paper.

1) an essay of approximately 800 - 1000 words and a revision of part of that essay, the total worth 20% of the final grade, based on the first module of the course. Topics will be announced and discussed in class and essay guidelines posted on Moodle and handed out in class.

2) an in-class essay of approximately 800 words, worth 10% of the final grade. This essay will be based on the second module of the course (“The Love of War and the War of Love”).

3) a research paper of approximately 1500 words worth 20% of the final grade. This assignment will be divided into an article review worth 5%, and the final essay worth 15%. The essay topic will be based on the last module of the course (“Literary Responses to World War One”).
Due dates will be announced in class, on the syllabus, and on the course Moodle calendar. Instruction on essay writing will be given in class. All essays must be written in order to get a mark for the essay component of your grade. Please read the following sections on deadlines for further important policies dealing with essays.

**Participation: 20% of the total grade**
This grade evaluates your engagement with the course material on a day-to-day basis. Your participation grade will take into account the quality and consistency of your contributions to discussion and the quality and completion of exercises done in class and assigned on Moodle; the quality of your contributions to group work; and the demonstration of professional and courteous behaviour throughout the course.

**Final exam: 30% of the total grade**
The final exam is an opportunity to think about the course readings in new combinations and from a broader perspective. Normally, the exam consists of passages selected from ones that we have discussed in class and that you will be asked to identify, analyze, and compare. Obviously, the best preparation for the exam is attending every class, bringing the text with you, keeping up with the assigned readings, and taking notes on the class discussions, including marking which passages we analyze together in class, along with actively addressing comments made on your essays and exercises.

**Required texts**
- An electronic or hard copy time management system, such as a weekly agenda
- A good writing handbook, such as the one used in WRIT 1120. If you prefer an online handbook, I will make some recommendations in class.
- Other texts will be available online.

**Course Policies**

**Language:** Correct use of language is one of the criteria included in the evaluation of all written assignments. In order to demonstrate appropriate professional behaviour, you are also expected to make an effort to use language correctly in all non-graded written materials that you submit, including emails to me and discussion posts to the class.

**Plagiarism and cheating:** As members of a global scholarly community, we are all expected to abide by certain standards of academic integrity; therefore, university regulations on plagiarism and cheating and other academic offenses will be strictly enforced. These regulations including applicable procedures and penalties are detailed in the University Calendar, are posted on department notice boards, and on the msvu.ca webpage. You are held responsible for informing yourself about the definition and the penalties outlined in the Calendar. In addition, I will explain to you in class what constitutes plagiarism and cheating, but if you have any doubts at all, you are required to consult with me before handing in any assignment.
**Workload:** A full load of five university courses per term is equivalent to a full-time job. You should be aware that for every hour spent in class an *average* of two hours of preparation will be required outside of class on a sustained basis. "Normal Course Load" in the University Calendar contains a more complete explanation. We’ll discuss how to manage your workload in class.

![Workload calculations for a full-time student]

- each class = 150 mins. / wk.
- x 5 classes = 750 mins. / wk. or 12.5 hrs. / wk. in class
- 2 hours average prep time for every hour in class –
- $2 \times 12.5 = 25$ hrs. prep time / wk. on average
- so....
- $12.5 \text{ hrs. in class} + 25 \text{ hrs. average prep time} =$
- $37.5 \text{ hours / wk. for schoolwork on average if taking 5 courses}$

**Students with disabilities:** If you have a disability and require academic accommodations, you must register with Disability Services <msvu.ca/disabilityservices> as early as possible in order to receive accommodations.

**Attendance:** Learning can certainly occur outside the classroom, but it is also prompted by what goes on inside the classroom. To gain fully from this course as we build knowledge and skills, you have to be engaged in the process. Everyone’s full participation contributes to a vibrant experience for all in the class. To make this the best experience for all concerned, you are expected to attend classes regularly, which is why the University Calendar states: "Regular attendance is expected of students at all classes...." Of course, things happen that might prevent you from coming to class; if so, you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner and to notify me if you cannot attend. That way, I can advise you on the best way for you to keep up with what is going on, and I can better track who is still working on the course materials.

**Deadlines:** Effective time management is one of the keys to success in university (and in other walks of life). To help you develop this skill, I ask that you work with a time management system of your own selection, such as a weekly agenda in either electronic or hard copy format. I usually divide assignments into smaller chunks to help you make steady progress towards a goal. As a further incentive, I deduct points for late essays – my deductions are not overly punitive, and I exempt people from late penalties if they have a valid excuse for being late which they have discussed with me beforehand if at all possible. After all, things happen in life that we sometimes can’t control. But if you are requesting special consideration due to conflicts with deadlines or exams, make sure that you do so in advance of the deadline.

However, if you are late with an assignment and you don’t have a strong reason that was discussed with me beforehand, your essay will have one grade level deducted for every 24-hour period beyond the deadline. Weekends will count the same as weekdays.
In return for you meeting the assignment deadlines, I will undertake to return all graded assignments within two weeks of receiving them. Any failure on my part to meet this marking deadline will result in a postponement of your next assignment deadline.

**Cell phones, laptops, and other technologies:** This course requires the mindful use of technologies. The basic principle we follow is that the technology that we use has to help us in our work and not distract us. For that reason, all phones and other devices must be adjusted so that they will not make any noise during class time. No recording equipment is allowed in class unless you have received my prior permission. On some days, you will be asked to put away all your electronic devices and use technologies such as pen and paper only. On other days, we might make use of a few smart phones or laptops. Please note, though, that you are not required to have a phone or laptop to do the in-class work.

This syllabus is subject to change based on the progress of the class. An updated schedule of readings and assignments will be maintained twice a week on the Moodle site in the weekly outline section and in the calendar. You should always check those Moodle locations for the most up-to-date list of readings and assignments.

Texts should be read before coming to class. Longer works will be divided into smaller sections for each class; the page numbers for these readings will be announced in the previous class and posted in the weekly outline and calendar sections of the Moodle site.

**Language, society, and historical change: an introduction to some terms and tools**

**January 7**  
**Literary conventions: the pastoral** (poems will be available online). Christopher Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love”

**January 9**  
**Literary conventions; language change**  
Sir Walter Ralegh, “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd”

**January 14**  
Aphra Behn, “The Willing Mistress”; William Carlos Williams, “Raleigh Was Right”

**January 16**  
**Literary conventions: sonnets**  
Sir Philip Sidney, “Who will in fairest book of nature know”

**January 21**  
William Shakespeare, “My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun”  
“That time of year thou mayst in me behold”

**January 23**  
**Influence, response, parody**  
Edna St.Vincent Millay, “What lips my lips have kissed....”  
Kim Addonizio, “First Poem for You”  
Billy Collins, “Sonnet”
January 28  Gender and the canon: Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Wife of Bath’s Prologue*;  
Essay #1 due

January 30  Arthuriann traditions: Chaucer, *Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale*

February 4  Chaucer, *Wife of Bath’s Tale* (continued)

February 6  Heroic poetry: *Beowulf*, lines 1-835

February 11  Oral culture: *Beowulf*, lines 836-2200

February 13  Textual culture: *Beowulf*, lines 2200 – 3182; Essay #1: revision due

Feb. 18-20  Reading Week

February 25  Mock-heroic: Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*

February 27  Pope, *Rape of the Lock*

March 4:  Victoria medievalism: from Tennyson’s *Idylls of the King, The Passing of Arthur*

March 6  Essay #2: In-class essay

Literary responses to World War I

March 11  World War I poetry: *The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry* (selections will be announced on Moodle)

March 13  World War I Poetry


March 20  *The Fellowship of the Ring*

March 25  (The Fall of Sauron: International Tolkien Reading Day:  
http://www.tolkiensociety.org/society/events/reading-day/)  
*The Fellowship of the Ring*

March 27  *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Essay #3: Stage 1 due (article review)

April 1  *The Fellowship of the Ring*

April 3  *The Fellowship of the Ring*

April 8  Exam review  
Essay #3: Stage 2 due (research paper)